

REMARKS

Claims 65 and 67 have been amended as per the suggestion of the Examiner in the Office Action mailed 03/29/2006.

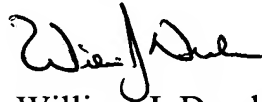
Claim 66 is being rejected as unpatentable over Greenhalgh (6,192,944) in view of Schmitt 5,383,925). Although the Applicants have canceled this claim 66, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that claim 66 is unpatentable over Greenhalgh in view of Schmitt and thereby cancel claim 66 with traverse. The Examiner has stated in the above mentioned Office Action that Greenhalgh shows a first strand 40 that is interwoven with a second strand 42. The Applicants state in claim 66 that the second strand has substantial circumferential componency, and this differs from the axially directed second strand 42 shown by Greenhalgh which is intended to hold his stent onto the graft. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner with regard to his definition of substantial as being enough to be seen by the human eye; such a small amount of circumferential componency would not be enough to provide anti-kinking characteristics to the graft and would not provide an expansion force to hold the graft outwards as described in the Applicants' claim 66. With regard to the Schmitt device, he shows angled strands, but the teaching is centered around trying to overcome the problems associated with graft foreshortening when angled strands are present. One does not extract a desire to make a graft with angled fibers and hence one would not have a reason to angle the strand of Greenhalgh.

Greenhalgh states in Column 5, Lines 24-47 that strand 42 is an attachment strand intended to hold his structural element or stent to the graft; he discusses the material requirements from which this strand could be constructed in order to provide for attachment of his stent to his graft. Strand 42 is not intended to provide the structure of anti-kink or to hold the device outwards as required by the Applicants' claim 66. Furthermore, strand 42 of Greenhalgh is not formed by replacing one of the circumferential strands as required by Applicants' independent claim 66, it is formed by

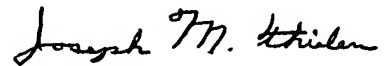
replacing an axial strand. The Schmitt invention is intended to stop the length change of his braided graft due to the scissoring by either running an axial strand to prevent length changes or by providing multiple interlocking layers of his wall thickness. It is not obvious to angle the stands of Greenhalgh in view of Schmitt because angling of the Greenhalgh strands leads to length changes in the graft of which Schmitt is attempting to fix. Therefore neither Greenhalgh or Schmitt nor both used in combination make it obvious to use a structural strand with substantial circumferential componency and interwoven as described by the Applicants to provide the device with characteristics described by the Applicants in independent claim 66.

The Applicants' would appreciate any further assistance offered by the Examiner to help put the claims in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service using Express Mail Post Office on the date indicated here and addressed to: Mailstop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA., 22313-1450, on 21 June 2006.

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Date: 21 June 2006

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